

Kenya Domestic Media, January 24th 2011 (Covering Jan 17th – Jan 24th)

By Fatima Arkin, MIGS Reporter for Kenya

State Owned Media

KBC Radio, Nairobi, in English 22 Jan 2011

"IGAD to meet over Kenya's quest for ICC withdrawal"

*The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) will meet to discuss Kenya's request for a deferral of the International Criminal Court (ICC) cases in favour of prosecution through a local judicial mechanism. In addition to support from IGAD and the African Union (AU), Kenya's request has so far received indications of endorsement from several African countries including, Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Malawi, Zambia, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda.

KBC Radio, Nairobi, in English 21 Jan 2011

"Kibaki commends Rift Valley leaders' for promoting peace"

*Kenyan president Mwai Kibaki commended Rift Valley leaders for resolving to work together to promote peace and reconciliation in the region. Deputy Prime Minister Uhuru Kenyatta disclosed that the government set aside an extra 1 billion shillings for the purpose of resettling IDPs in the country, while Internal Security Minister Prof George Saitoti pledged his ministry's support to peace committees from the location to the provincial level.

KBC Radio, Nairobi, in English 18 Jan 2011

"Judge postpones taking evidence from Kenya post-poll violence witnesses"

* Judge postpones taking evidence from Kenya post-poll violence witnesses until two court cases are settled. Filed by businessmen, Jackson Mwangi and James Mwangi one case is to stop the prosecution of any Kenyan at The Hague and the second to stop Justice Kalpana Rawal from recording and taking evidence from witnesses, saying it would be contrary to the constitution.

"Kenyan premier not involved in Cote d'Ivoire shoot-out"

*Kenyan Prime Minister Raila Odinga is safe and was not involved in a shoot-out in Abidjan today as alleged by a section of the media. A statement from the Prime Minister's Press Service confirmed that Mr. Odinga had not yet landed in Ivory Coast when the clashes between supporters of Laurent Gbagbo and UN peacekeepers occurred in the capital, Abidjan.

Privately Owned Media

The Standard, Nairobi, in English 24 Jan 2011

"ICC: Ali seeks judges' attention at The Hague"

*Former Kenyan police Chief Hussein Ali moved to The Hague and filed an application to participate in the proceedings before the possible issuance of summons against him. Meanwhile, the 96 million shillings fraud case against suspended Higher Education Minister Ruto and seven others begins today, amid fears it might derail his political ambitions.

The East African, Nairobi, in English 24 Jan 2011

"Ten per cent of Kenyans have web access – survey"

*According to "Digital Life" a study conducted by TNS Research International, 10% of Kenyans have web access, the highest amount in the East African Community. With regards to Kenya, the study revealed that although email is the most popular use of the internet, social media and education as well as knowledge access is growing steadily. Mobile devices and internet cafes are the primary points of access. However, barriers to internet access including the lack of internet-enabled handsets and PCs as well as unawareness of the benefits of internet use need to be addressed.

Daily Nation, Nairobi, in English 24 Jan 2011

"Top Hague official jets in Monday" by Bernard Namunane and Oliver Mathenge

*Ms Silvana Arbia, the ICC registrar, will arrive in Kenya on Monday to discuss the assistance required of the government should the judges indict the "Ocampo Six". As the registrar, Ms Arbia's job revolves around the protection of witnesses and victims and provision of any legal assistance.

Daily Nation, Nairobi, in English 23 Jan 2011

"Kenyan justice minister says truth team may not achieve mandate"

* Justice Minister Mutula Kilonzo says the cash-strapped Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission may not achieve its mandate. The minister said that problems were rooted in the "origination" of the commissioners who were further impeded by the "breathtaking negligence" of civil society. Commissioner Margaret Shava said they were experiencing "severe time and financial constraints" but she was optimistic that they would complete their work on schedule.

The Star, Nairobi, in English 22 Jan 2011

"EU issues pirates' attack warning" by Maureen Mudi

*EU issues pirates' attack warning after the hijacked ship MV Sakoba was spotted yesterday near Kenyan and Tanzanian waters. "Somali pirates are attacking close to east Africa, Gulf of Aden, south Red Sea/Bab el Mandeb, off Yemen, Arabian Sea/off Oman, off eastern, northern and southern Somali coast", said the warning.

"Tension in Likoni over Shabaab attack rumour" by Maureen Mudi

*There was "tension" in Likoni over an Al-Shabab attack rumour. Riot police, the General Service Unit and regular police were sent to the station to provide security from 6a.m. [local time]. The officers said they don't take rumours for granted. The Likoni police boss Jackson Mulupi, however, dismissed the claims saying the officers were conducting normal patrols and need for alarm.

Daily Nation, Nairobi, in English 21 Jan 2011

"Sustainable peace in the Rift Valley won't be realized through selfish deals" by O. Kipchumba Murkomen

*Kenyan writer O. Kipchumba Murkomen claims that there has never been a genuine attempt to address the conflict between Kalenjins and Kikuyus over land rights. Instead, clashes have been used as a trump card for political mobilization via the "KKK (Kikuyu-Kamba-Kalenjin) alliance". He says that the solution will be the soon to be formed National Land Commission, which will protect existing land rights while compensating those who suffered injustices to help them engage in other economic activities.

"AU summit to decide Odinga's next role in Cote d'Ivoire" by Argaw Ashine

*The African Union is hoping to make a breakthrough on the Cote d'Ivoire crisis during its upcoming summit at the end of this month. AU peace and Security Council commissioner Ramate Lamamran said that the AU prefers to exhaust all peaceful ways, but hinted that military force was an option if talks fail. Although Mr. Odinga "does not intend to work permanently" the prime minister will prepare a report, which the summit will consider before deciding his next role.

"Sudanese at Kakuma anxious to return home" by Barnabas Bii

*More than 15 000 southern Sudanese refugees living at Kakuma camp are prepared to return to their county after they voted for secession. However, some of the refugees are waiting to make a decision until after the outcome of the referendum expected next month. Turkana West district commissioner, Patrick Muriira assures that "all is well" in the border shared with southern Sudan. He, however, warned of armed conflict between the Turkana and Toposa communities

over pasture and grazing fields. A resource sharing committee has been formed to help resolve disputes.

"Lobbying for Kenyan trials gathers steam" by Oliver Mathenge

*Kenya has lined up a series of more diplomatic missions to other African countries to seek support in its efforts to try post-election violence suspects locally. Emissaries are headed to Ethiopia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Lesotho while vice president Musyoka will meet with Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and AU Commission boss Jean Ping. Mr. Musyoka said the leaders he spoke to were supportive, but wanted to be sure that justice will be served. Malawian president and AU chair, Mr. Kibaki supports Kenya's efforts stating "the UN Security Council should have no problem considering it favourably."

"World prevented Kenya 'genocide', UN official says" by Kevin J. Kelley

*UN special adviser to the secretary general on the prevention of genocide, Francis Deng said that the world stopped the 2007 post-election violence in Kenya from "escalating to genocide levels". He suggests that the international community is again demonstrating its "collective will" to prevent mass atrocities in Cote d'Ivoire.

"Raila steps up bid to solve crisis in Cote d'Ivoire" by Bernard Namunane

*Prime Minister Odinga stepped up his game to solve the Cote d'Ivoire crisis. He described his meetings with the west African regional leaders as "very productive". The presidents of Burkina Faso and Mali endorsed the position taken by AU and ECOWAS. Mr. Odinga also visited Luanda, Angola to rally President Jose Eduardo dos Santos behind the AU's push to resolve the stalemate. Angola is one of the few African countries that support Mr Gbagbo.

"Kibaki tour to cement peace efforts"

*President Kibaki will hold a rally in Eldoret on Friday to cement reconciliation between communities that fought during the 2008 post-election violence. Speaking at Parliament buildings, MPs from the region said they expected the president to address the resettlement of IDPs, reconciliation and cohesion among communities in the area and the tarmacking of a road from Eldoret to southern Sudan. Rift Valley MPs categorically state that the event is not political.

The Star, Nairobi, in English 21 Jan 2011

"Temporary reprieve for Al-Shabab member" by Roy Agoya

*A Nairobi court permitted 17 year old Abdikadir Muhammad Kasim to change his plea from guilty to not guilty after confessing to being a recruit of Somali militia Al-Shabab. The court agreed with the suspect's lawyer Cliff Ombeta, that perhaps Mr. Kasim didn't understand the consequences of his confession.

"Al-Shabab suspects ask court for freedom" by Carole Maina

*Two detained terror suspects, Muslim clerics Aboud Rogo and Abubakar Sharif Abubakar seek to be released on bail. While arguing before Justice Fred Ochieng yesterday, the two said the offence they are facing is bailable and that the prosecution failed to prove how dangerous they are to the society.

"Vetting of Arab and Asian Muslims barred" by Maureen Mudi

*The high court in Mombasa has barred the registrar of persons from enforcing a circular requiring people of Arab and Asian origin professing Islam to be vetted before being issued national identity cards. State lawyer A. Kimeli argued that the circular is not being enforced since there is a new directive, pursuant to the new constitution. Lawyer Harun Ndubi, representing the petitioners, argued that "the circular is illegal and unconstitutional".

The People, Nairobi, in English 21 Jan 2011

"Uhuru deals 'KKK' alliance death blow"

*Deputy Prime Minister Uhuru Kenyatta dismissed the "KKK alliance", calling its proponents "mad people". Mr. Uhuru said that only the unity of Kenyans in one big party as opposed to alliances and groupings will bring prosperity.

The Standard, Nairobi, in English 21 Jan 2011

"Uhuru PNU wing to register 2012 political alliance" by Moses Njagih

*Members of President Kibaki's side of the coalition government registered a new political party the PNU [Party of National Unity] Alliance, which will bring together parties that are already members of the Party of National Unity. PNU's main members include Deputy Prime Minister [and Finance Minister] Uhuru Kenyatta, Internal Security Minister George Saitoti, Energy Minister Kiraitu Murungi and Vice-President Kalonzo Musyoka.

Daily Nation, Nairobi, in English 20 Jan 2011

"Kenyan police execute three men point blank"

*Kenyan police were caught on camera killing three men who already surrendered. Commander Kimantiri said the deceased were part of a group of six who shot at police officers. In response to a "tip off" the three were gunned down while running away; their accomplices escaped. Mr. Kimantiri's explanation contradicts the account given by witnesses including the motorist who caught the event on camera. Police spokesman Eric Kiraithe said that as part of standard procedure the shooting is being investigated by the Nairobi Area command.

"Cote d'Ivoire's Gbagbo rejects mediator Raila" by Honore Koua

*Cote d'Ivoire's President Gbagbo rejected Prime Minister Odinga as the African Union appointed mediator in Cote d'Ivoire crisis; accuses him of bias. Mr. Odinga left Abidjan early, claiming that the Ivorian president reneged for the second time on his promise to lift the military blockade on the hotel of opposition leader, Mr. Ouattara. Minister of foreign affairs, Mr. Djedje maintains that no promises were made and that obstruction will continue due to fear of violence from "heavily armed rebels" inside the resort. They are still willing to discuss "substantive issues facing Cote d'Ivoire" with another AU mediator.

KTN TV, Nairobi, in English 20 Jan 2011

"AU Ivorian mediator says censures Gbagbo over broken promises"

*Prime Minister Odinga left Abidjan and travelled to Ghana to secure their pledge not to object if West African states took military action. This week, the Economic Community of West African States met in Mali to discuss plans to oust Laurent Gbagbo while the UN sent 2 000 additional peacekeepers to Cote d'Ivoire where staff are increasingly under attack by pro-Gbagbo forces.

The Star, Nairobi, in English 20 Jan 2011

"Cops raid Kampala bus suspects' homes" by Maureen Mudi

*Police searched the homes of two terror suspects, controversial imam Abu Rogo and Abubakar Sharrif, alias Makaburi. Rogo's relatives refused to cooperate and no evidence was found. The men were arrested last December over alleged involvement in the detonation of a grenade inside a bus. They were taken to Nairobi for interrogation and an investigation was started soon after.

Daily Nation, Nairobi, in English 19 Jan 2011

"ICC judges reject Ruto case" by Jillo Kadida

*ICC judges reject Mr. Ruto's application criticizing chief prosecutor Louis Moreno-Ocampo's investigations and seeking to bar summons or arrest warrants until he is given a chance to present his side of the story. Mr. Ruto claims that Mr. Ocampo failed to conduct proper investigations into the Kenyan poll violence and instead relied on reports by the Waki Commission and the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights.

"Regulator moves to block 'junk' SMSs" by Jevan Nyabiange

*Kenyan telecom regulator warned operators and content providers over increasing unsolicited text messages, saying they are illegal and an infringement of personal privacy. Late last week, the Communications Commission of Kenya banned the short code 6969 run by Shinda Smart lottery, accusing the firm of abusing the laid down licence requirements.

"Military faulted over graft as House sessions resume" by Alphonse Shiundu and John Ngirachu

*The military faced allegations over controversial procurement deals during parliament's first sitting in the New Year. Defence Minister Yusuf Hajj denied all accusations against the military with House Speaker Kenneth Marende contemplating a way forward in the scrutiny of the shady procurement.

"Ocampo invites three to The Hague as anger over legal fees mounts" by Emeka-Mayaka Gekara

*Head of public service Francis Muthaura, suspended Industrialization Minister Henry Kosgey and Postmaster-General Hussein Ali were invited to The Hague to prove that they didn't commit crimes against humanity. Lobby groups condemned the decision by the government to pay legal fees for two of the six suspects and called for the immediate resignation of the suspects still occupying public office. The Centre for Human Rights and Democracy said they would mobilize a million Kenyans to sign a petition against withdrawal from the ICC while in Kisumu, a group of youths took to the streets to protest against efforts by the government to pull Kenya out of the ICC.

"Time to treat Gbagbo like the outlaw he is"

*Youths loyal to Ivorian President Gbagbo attacked Prime Minister Odinga's security detail, but posed no real danger. The lesson is that the international community must not be scared off. They must become even more emboldened in their intervention.

The Standard, Nairobi, in English 19 Jan 2011

"State lists home of Standard, KTN and Radio Maisha for forceful takeover" by Ally Jamah

*Top Kenyan media group, the Standard Group, tops a list of mega-billion business complexes that the state seeks to forcibly acquire and flatten to pave way for the expansion of Mombasa Road. In a joint statement endorsed by the affected business people the government was asked to come up with an alternative road routing that would limit negative economic impact. The current plans will sweep away most of the landmark business structures on both sides of Mombasa Road, but a building associated with a former powerful member of President Kibaki's cabinet will be left untouched even though it is on the same path. It is not clear why the government did not advise The Standard Group to cease construction of the recently completed Standard Group Centre if plans were made to acquire the land more than two years ago.

"Kianga to address military discontent" by Ben Agina

*Chief of General Staff Jeremiah Kianga chairs the first formation commanders meeting to discuss officer's welfare and unpaid house to office allowances. On the issue of transportation,

Brigadier Magut told the officers that the withdrawal of allowances follows the introduction of a better-improved shuttle bus system.

"Arms drive put off as state rolls up sleeves to fight food shortage" by Peter Atsiaya and Daniel Nzia

*The government has suspended the disarmament programme in Pokot and Turkana to deal with a food shortage caused by famine. North Rift Deputy Provincial Commissioner Wilson Wanyanga said that the situation is under control and that the security situation worsened by cattle rustling had improved since the disarmament was launched.

Daily Nation, Nairobi, in English 18 Jan 2011

"Officers start training on 'intelligent policing'"

*Kenyan police start UK sponsored training on "intelligent policing" in countering terrorism and organized crimes. Commissioner of police Mathew Iteere highlighted the need to develop community policing and improve police-media relations.

"Raila allies warn of anti-ODM campaign" by Caroline Wafula

*Prime Minister Odinga's allies warn of an anti Orange Democratic Movement (ODM-K) campaign to discredit its leadership. Deputy prime minister Mr. Mudavadi said that propaganda's being spread claiming the prime minister was behind the list of The "Ocampo Six". He called the argument political deception and also dismissed claims that Kenya will be pulling out of the ICC process. The deputy prime minister said threats by some members to quit the party were due to fear of the coming grassroots election in which suspended Education Minister William Ruto hinted that the three leaders of the KKK alliance would present one candidate after severing ties with Mr. Odinga.

"Kenya under probe over misuse of HIV funds" by Gatonye Gathura

*Kenya is under investigation for misuse of AIDS funds donated by the Global Fund. The country will also be investigated for rampant diversion of malaria drugs meant for public hospitals into the local and regional markets. A recent report by the fund's Office of the Inspector General says Kenya is among 10 other countries whose routine audits last year justified formal investigations.

"PS fears mobile phone price wars could derail new constitution" by Jevans Nyabiange

*Information Permanent Secretary Bitrange Ndemo fears mobile phone price wars could derail the constitution implementation process and threatened efforts to alleviate food shortages. Dr. Ndemo said the government and millions of Kenyans heavily invested in the communications sector. Any losses in investment could have a ripple effect on the economy.

The Star, Nairobi, in English 18 Jan 11

"Coast hotels on alert over Shabab threat" by Caroline Mango and John Gathangu

*US mission in Kenya warns of "imminent" attack by Somali Islamist group Al-Shabab. Hotels where Westerners frequent and western embassies continue to be optimal targets. Sarova Hotels Regional Director Mohammed Hersi said that the communication was sent directly to hotels leading to heightened security measures.

"Trader in Mombasa charged with Al-Shabab links" by Maureen Mudi

*Kenyan trader Mohamed Sudi, aka Mohammed Hussein was charged over ties with Al-Shabab. He was charged with having an article likely to instigate a serious crime by an organized criminal group and with being in possession of records likely to be used in preparation to commit serious crimes involving an organized criminal group. Saudi denied both charges. The hearing is scheduled for February 1st.

"Outlawed Mombasa group vows to fight on" by Maureen Mudi

*The outlawed Mombasa Republican Council [MRC] vowed to continue with its activities, a day after police dispersed their rally in Mombasa. The MRC Council of Elders secretary, Antony Mlamba, said efforts to talk with the provincial minister failed and "it is now time to go head on and get our rights".

"Trouble hits KKK alliance"

*The proposed KKK alliance ran into trouble yesterday when Kalonzo's supporters said he may abandon the deal. Supporters insisted the VP is best placed to be the single presidential candidate for the ODM-K. Uhuru also seemed to dissociate himself from the alliance claiming not to seek an alliance of three communities, but of all Kenyans and all communities.

KTN TV, Nairobi, in English 18 Jan 2011

"South Sudanese in Kenya optimistic about future should Juba secede – survey"

*South Sudanese living in Kenya are optimistic that their economic status will improve if southern Sudan breaks away from the Khartoum administration. A survey conducted by market research firm Synovate further shows that most of them expect peace after the referendum results are announced.

Daily Nation, Nairobi, in English 17 Jan 2011

"House opens Tuesday to a crowded agenda" by Caroline Wafula

*Kenyan parliament reopens January 18th to a crowded agenda including laws necessary for the implementation of the new constitution and appointment of officers to put it into effect. Top of

the list is hiring a new chief justice, director of public prosecutions and an attorney general. Other business is setting up a local tribunal to try those implicated in post-election violence.

East African Website, Nairobi, English 17 Jan 2011

"A 'little' in southern Sudan" by Charles Omondi

*A Sudanese law makes it mandatory for any foreign enterprise to cede 40% ownership to a local leading to “marriages of convenience” with a stranger. One hotel owner commented that the partnerships usually end in divorce with the Sudanese confiscating the business. Kenyans are the “driving force” in most sectors of the economy in southern Sudan including hospitality, construction and transport. Kenyan hospitality investors in particular are at risk by violent clientele. The Government of South Sudan (GOSS) is trying to uphold the law and is offering protection to investors.